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ordinary people cannot separate. The illustrations are well chosen and, for the most part, excellent. Many of them are photo-engraved from drawings copied from classical figures, the source of which, unfortunately, is somewhat obscured by the statement that they are original. T.

Sargent's Silva.[1] — When it was begun, this superb work was intended to be completed in twelve volumes. The twelfth volume, however, recently issued, contains an announcement that a thirteenth volume will be devoted to supplementary material and an index to the entire work. Like its predecessors, the present volume is conservatively prepared and exquisitely published. It deals with the genera Larix, Picea, Tsuga, Pseudotsuga, and Abies. T.

Systematic Plant Anatomy. — Dr. Solereder, whose studies on the anatomy of flowering plants as applied to their classification are known to all botanists, has undertaken the preparation of a synopsis of what is known in this respect of the Dicotyledons.[2] The work is to be completed in four parts, and, though somewhat expensive (36 marks), will be a necessary and welcome addition to every working laboratory. T.

Botanical Notes. — The relation of plants to their surroundings is discussed in an entertaining way by Costantin, in a recent volume of the *Bibliothèque Scientifique Internationale.*

The anatomical means of distinguishing the commonly cultivated barberries are given by Koehne in *Gartenflora* for January.

Systematic plant introduction, its purposes and methods, is discussed by D. G. Fairchild in *Forestry Bulletin No. 21* of the Department of Agriculture.

A series of illustrated articles on the morphology of Anemone, by Janczewski, is brought to a conclusion in the *Revue Générale de Botanique* for December 15.

Orchid hybridizing, now a matter of some commercial importance, as well as of scientific interest, is described by C. C. Hurst in *Nature* for December 22.

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[1] Sargent, Charles Sprague. *The Silva of North America.* Illustrated with figures and analyses drawn from nature by Charles Edward Faxon. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Vol. xii. vii + 144 pp., 26 plates.

[2] Solereder, H. *Systematische Anatomie der Dicotyledonen.* Ein Handbuch für Laboratorien der wissenschaftlichen und angewandten Botanik. Stuttgart, Enke. Lieferung 1, 2. 1898.

The *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* for January contains No. 5 of Professor Nelson's papers on New Plants from Wyoming, and a description and figure of *Lacinaria cymosa*, by H. Ness.

Thirty poisonous plants of the United States are described and, in large part, figured, by Chesnut in *Farmer's Bulletin No. 86* of the Department of Agriculture.

Of interest to botanists is a portrait of Sir W. T. Thiselton Dyer, K.C.M.G., the able director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, published in the *Gardener's Chronicle* of January 7.

In the *Berichte der deutschen botanischen Gesellschaft* of December 28, Ule speaks of the adaptation of some Brazilian Utricularias to their mode of life, which is peculiar, since they live in the leaf rosettes of certain Bromeliaceæ.

Under the title Plantæ Mattogrossenses, Dr. J. Barbosa Rodrigues, director of the botanical garden of Rio de Janeiro, publishes descriptions and figures of a considerable number of new or little known species.

The Bermuda Juniper and its allies are disentangled by Dr. Masters in the *Journal of Botany* for January. While the Jamaican tree is referred to *J. Virginiana*, our common red cedar, the tree of Bermuda, *J. bermudiana*, is held to be specifically distinct.

The Iowa Sedges are catalogued, with synonymic notes, by Professor Cratty, in the December number of the *Bulletin of the Laboratory of Natural History of the Iowa University*. The list includes 114 species and varieties, pertaining to 10 genera. Ten species are figured.

Cerastium arvense, var. *oblongifolium*, a form of a common enough weed, is christened The Starry Grasswort and recommended for decorative cultivation by Professor Arthur in *Bulletin No. 74* of the Purdue University Experiment Station.

The *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* for January contains the following articles of botanical interest: Economic uses of bamboos, and list of bamboos in cultivation; Water-lilies and hybrid water-lilies, the latter by the well-known raiser of such hybrids, M. Latour-Marliac.

The Botanical Gazette begins its twenty-seventh volume with an interesting address on the vegetation of tropical America, by Professor Warming, whose studies of Brazilian plants are well known.

The same number contains an elaborate paper on the life history of *Lemna minor*, by Otis W. Caldwell.

Möllers Deutsche Gärtner-Zeitung of January 14 contains an article on Mexican orchids in their native home, by Othon Krieger, which is illustrated by reproductions of two photographs presenting a very vivid picture of the abundance of these epiphytes of our plant-houses and of the difficulties attending their collection.

Botanists who may make the acquaintance of the white ash of Australia will not find a species of Fraxinus, but a Eucalyptus, which has been described and figured by Deane and Maiden in No. 91 of the *Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of New South Wales* under the name *E. fraxinoides*. The same number contains descriptions and figures of two additional species of Eucalyptus, by R. T. Baker.

GEOLOGY.

The Isthmus of Panama, as has been shown by a geological reconnoissance made by R. T. Hill,[1] is an ancient mountain range much reduced in height and deeply dissected by erosion. The drainage system is well developed and consists of several principal streams, which have many rapidly flowing branches near their sources, but comparatively long, low-grade trunks into which the tides extend many miles from the sea. The larger streams generally are characterized by drowned mouths and actively corrading head waters.

There is an absence on each border of the isthmus of a coastal plain, similar to that on the Gulf and Atlantic borders of the United States. The uplands come boldly down to the sea in a series of bluffs and headlands, separated by the partially drowned valleys. On each shore, however, there is a submerged platform, which extends out to about the 100-fathom line, where the bottom descends rapidly into water of great depth. The topography of these submerged shelves indicates that they were formerly coastal plains across which the present streams were extended and excavated channels. A downward movement of the land has submerged the former coastal plain and given origin to coastal swamps, and permitted the encroachment of the sea far up the ancient, low-grade valleys.

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[1] Hill, R. T. The Geological History of the Isthmus of Panama and Portions of Costa Rica. Based on a reconnoissance made for Alexander Agassiz. *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Harvard College*, vol. xxviii (1898), No. 5, pp. 151–285, with 19 plates.